

## **Request for Concept Papers**

### **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**

### **2004 Proposition 40 Funding Opportunity**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is requesting concept papers for fuel treatment projects in the Sierra Nevada that will protect key watershed values and reduce risks to communities from wildfire.

#### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**Available Funding:** Approximately \$1,890,000 in Proposition 40 funding will be awarded through July 1, 2005 for qualifying fuel treatment projects. In addition, approximately \$350,000 is available to assist project proponents with preparation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans and/or analysis of environmental impacts as necessary to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Project proposals of any dollar amount will be considered. However, project proposals should be designed to be completed in a 12-month period and are encouraged to limit the State's Prop. 40 contribution to be included in any project to less than \$50,000. The area for which funding is available generally applies to State Responsibility Areas in or adjacent to communities located within identified key areas with high or moderate levels of watersheds assets at risk. These areas are identified on maps available at CDF Units or at the CDF website at <http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/prop40/>. In general the funding covers all or portions of the following Sierra Nevada counties:

- |          |             |             |          |
|----------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| • Butte  | • Sierra    | • Amador    | • Tulare |
| • Alpine | • Yuba      | • Calaveras | • Fresno |
| • Placer | • Nevada    | • Tuolumne  | • Madera |
| • Plumas | • El Dorado | • Mariposa  |          |

**Eligible Applicants:** Any non-Federal organization operating within the covered area may apply for Prop. 40 funding. Collaboration with CDF Units and consistency with the Unit fire plans is required. Individuals are not eligible for funding under this program but may be eligible for funding under CDF's California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) or Vegetation Management Program (VMP). Funding is not available to Federal entities.

**Matching Requirements:** There are no matching requirements. However, project proponents are encouraged to seek matching funds, as this will be one of the criteria used to evaluate and prioritize funding proposals. These funds may, as appropriate, be used to meet match requirements for Federal grants. All matching funds must be specifically related to the project and may include in-kind donations, volunteer assistance, and private and public monetary contributions.

**Administration:** The program will be administered by CDF. Proposed projects will be evaluated by CDF and ranked based upon the criteria listed in this announcement.

Funding will be committed to specific projects and will be payable upon completion of project work or an acceptable portion thereof as indicated in the project work plan and agreed to by the Department. Claims submitted will be subject to field verification prior to payment and will be subject to the appropriate state rules, regulations and reporting requirements.

**Application Deadlines:** Concept papers must be submitted through the Fire Safe California Grants Clearinghouse (<http://www.grants.firesafecouncil.org/>). Concept papers must be received by the Clearinghouse by February 4, 2005. The Clearinghouse will forward concept papers indicating an interest in Prop. 40 to CDF. CDF will review the concept papers and notify selected finalists by February 18, 2005. Selected finalists will be requested to submit full, detailed proposals on or before March 18, 2005. Award selections and notifications will be made by CDF by April 4, 2005.

**Grant Period:** Projects should be planned to be completed within 12 months of the funding notification from CDF.

**Questions or Other Inquires:** Specific questions or other inquiries regarding the program should be directed to the following CDF coordinators:

CDF Unit	Counties Administered	CDF Contact	Phone #
Butte	Butte and Plumas	Mike Santuccio	(530) 538-7111
Nevada-Yuba-Placer	Nevada, Yuba, Sierra and Placer	Gary Brittner	(530) 889-0111
Amador-El Dorado	El Dorado, Amador, and Alpine	Phyllis Banducci	(530) 647-5203
Tahoe Basin	Portions of El Dorado and Amador Counties located within the Tahoe Basin	Phyllis Banducci	(530) 647-5203
Tuolumne- Calaveras	Tuolumne and Calaveras	Steve Hollett	(209) 754-2706
Madera-Mariposa	Madera and Mariposa	Roscoe Rowney	(209) 966-3622
Fresno-Kings	Fresno	Tony Mediati	(559) 485-7500 x107
Tulare	Tulare	Frank Spandler	(559) 732-5954

### **CONCEPT PAPER JUDGING CRITERIA**

Concept papers will be screened based on the following criteria:

- Is the concept paper application complete? Only complete concept papers will be considered.
- Is the applicant eligible for funding? Only eligible applicants will be considered.

Concept papers will rank higher if projects:

- Make a clear linkage between the proposed fuel reduction activities and watershed/water quality protection.
- Will create, or are linked to, a community wildfire protection plan that is consistent with a CDF Unit Fire Plan.
- Will benefit one or more at-risk community as defined in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.
- Have a clearly defined need.
- Have clearly defined workplans that demonstrate involvement of key partners and identify unit costs of each of the proposed tasks.
- Clearly demonstrate the capability of the project proponent to execute the proposed project.
- Have clearly defined budgets with matching commitments.
- Will build community capacity to help itself plan and implement strategic objectives.
- Address long-term commitment and capability to maintain the fuel treatment work.
- Demonstrate the ability to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### **CONCEPT PAPER PROCEDURE**

All concept papers must be submitted electronically through the Fire Safe Council Grants Clearinghouse (<http://www.grants.firesafecouncil.org/>). Items 1 through 16 are self-explanatory. For those projects proposing to use Prop. 40 funds please include the following information.

**Item 17. Briefly summarize the problem, the proposed project, and how it addresses the problem.**

If you are proposing to utilize Prop. 40 funds offered by the state for fuel reduction projects, the problem assessment will need to demonstrate the linkage between the proposed projects and benefits to water quality and watersheds. When responding to this item, this linkage will need to be made. CDF has posted maps that show high priority areas for each of the Sierra Nevada Counties covered by the grant funding.

**Item 18. Is the problem or proposed project named in a plan? If yes, name the plan.**

Projects will need to reference the CDF Unit Fire Management Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, or other plan applicable to the project area. While all projects will be eligible for funding, if funding is limited, higher priority for Prop. 40 funding will be given to those project proposals that clearly link to the applicable CDF Fire Management Plan.

**Item 19. Has the project and how you are proposing to implement it been developed in conjunction with a Federal, state or local agency? If yes, name the agency and contact person.**

Project proponents are encouraged to consult with local fire protection agencies during the development of the project proposal. The name of the agency and contact person who

assisted with development of the project will be helpful during the review of the project proposal by CDF.

**Item 20. When will you start the project and how long will it take to complete?**

Describe in general terms how long the project will take to complete. Projects should be planned and sized to be completed in a 12 month period and should consider likely seasonal work limitations.

**Item 21. List key action steps that describe how you will accomplish the project from start to finish.**

Describe the key steps involved with the project and how these steps will be accomplished.

**Item 22. List the partners participating in the project (agencies, local groups, tribes, etc.). Following each partner's name explain the role they'll play in the project and the dollar value of any match they provide.**

While matching funds are not required, higher priority will be given to those projects that have matching funding.

**Item 23. List the communities that will benefit from this project.**

Describe the community or area that will benefit from the treatment along with the watershed in which the project will be located.

**Item 24. Describe the applicant organization's capacity and ability to manage the project to completion.**

Describe the experience and training of individuals who will provide project design, oversight, and quality control. Provide past experience with similar projects. Are adequate resources (e.g., personnel, facilities, equipment, contractors, supplies, and time) available to carry out the project?

**Item 25. If this is a fuels treatment project, describe if environmental compliance is fully or partially complete. If not fully complete, identify how much of the budget will be for environmental compliance .**

Describe how the project proponent will comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Prop. 40 funding may be requested to offset the costs of preparing CEQA documents. However, there are some limitations on the use of this funding. Environmental documents prepared utilizing Prop. 40 funds cannot be used to support removal of trees greater than 16" in diameter outside of the bark at 4.5' in height on the bole of the tree as measured from the uphill side of the tree. Questions regarding what type of existing CEQA documentation may be available or, if not available, what type of existing CEQA documentation may be necessary for your project can be directed to the local CDF coordinators.

**Item 26. Condition Class**

See Item 27

**Item 27. Fire Regime**

In addition to the Fire Regime Class information provided for Federal grants applications, please provide a written narrative that describes the current vegetation and planned treatment methodologies to be used to modify the vegetation to achieve desired fuel reduction and water quality protection objectives.

**Item 28. Will the project generate biomass, small logs, or a merchantable volume of a marketable product?**

Estimate the volume of commercial products, if any, that will be removed as part of the fuel reduction activities and the extent that revenue generated from the removal of the commercial products will cover the costs of the fuel treatment operations. Also, where operations will occur on timberlands as defined in Public Resource Code Section 4526 please describe what type of documentation will be necessary in order to fully implement the proposed project. Prop. 40 funding cannot be utilized to cover costs of regulatory compliance or mitigations associated with a project approved under the provisions of the Forest Practice Act.

**Item 29. Describe how your project will protect watershed(s) and/or water quality.**

This is a particularly critical item relative to Prop. 40 funding. A clear nexus must be made between the proposed project and the protection of watersheds that demonstrates how the project will result in a modification of fire behavior that will contribute to reduction of risks or impacts to watersheds or water quality.

**Item 30a.** Is the project within the high priority watershed treatment areas identified on maps prepared by CDF (maps are available from the Prop. 40 Program Coordinators at the local CDF unit or via the Internet at <http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/prop40/>)?

**Item 30b. Identify the CalWater 2.2 super planning watershed identifier number.**

This information can be found on the maps described above. If available, also provide the watershed name.

**Item 31. Describe desired outcomes and how you will measure to determine you have achieved them. Describe the benefits to the communities.**

Describe how the desired outcomes will be evaluated, monitored, and reported.